

Please amend the Application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1 - 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing an agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide, comprising reacting cobalt(II) carbonate agglomerates, in suspension, with at least one component selected from the group consisting of aqueous alkaline liquors, ammonia and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 16, wherein the cobalt(II) hydroxide includes spheroidally agglomerated, polygonal, lamellar primary particles which have average diameters of 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and diameter to thickness ratios between 3 and 15.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 17, wherein the spheroidal agglomerates have an average diameter of 3 - 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 17, wherein the spheroidal agglomerates have an average diameter of 5 - 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 16, wherein the cobalt(II) hydroxide has a tap density of  $\geq 1\text{g/cm}^3$ .

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 16, further ~~including~~ comprising calcinating the carbonate agglomerates agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide thereby forming pure-phase cobalt(II) oxide.

Claims 22 - 29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (New) The process of Claim 16 wherein said component is ammonia.